

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /105 W

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R 141745 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7811

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3286

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, GE

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN VISIT TO BELGIUM, JUNE 6-10

REF: BRUSSELS 3029

1. SUMMARY. GDR VISIT PASSED UNEVENTFULLY, WITH BRIEF OFFICIAL EXCHANGES OF WELL KNOWN VIEWS ON CSCE, MBFR AND BELGIAN- GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS. VISITORS PRESSED HARD FOR ARRIVAL OF BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN BERLIN, AND BELGIANS BELIEVE THEY CANNOT STALL MUCH LONGER. END SUMMARY.

2. GDR STATE SECRETARY FLORIN'S VISIT TO BELGIUM JUNE 6-10 PRODUCED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE, ACCORDING TO HEAD OF FONOFF SOVIET AND EE SERVICE (REUSENS). IN BRIEF MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON, FLORIN REPEATED FAMILIAR POSITIONS ON CSCE AND MBFR, ADDING NOTHING TO THE VIEWS HE HAD EXPOSED IN A SPEECH TO THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (SEE BELOW). DAVIGNON CUT SHORT THE DISCUSSION OF CSCE BY SHOWING FLORIN THE AGREED DOCUMENT THAT HAD COME OUT OF HELSINKI. FLORIN STRESSED THAT MBFR MUST INCLUDE WEAPONS AS WELL AS FORCES.

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DAVIGNON CONFINED HIMSELF TO INSISTING THAT A DATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS BE ACCEPTED SOON.

3. IN HIS SPEECH, FLORIN REVIEWED RECENT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND AGREEMENTS CONTRIBUTING TO DETENTE, NOTED THAT GDR FOREIGN POLICY CONFORMED WHOLLY TO SOVIET POLICY, AND LAID OUT IN GENERAL TERMS GDR GOALS IN CSCE AND MBFR. (COPIES OF FRENCH TEXT POUCHED TO DEPT (EUR/ CE), EMBASSY BONN AND USMISSION BERLIN.)

4. FLORIN FORMALLY INVITED BOTH VAN ELSLANDE AND DAVIGNON TO VISIT THE GDR, AND BOTH INVITATIONS WERE ACCEPTED. IN THIS CONNECTION, FLORIN PRESSED BELGIUM VERY HARD TO PLACE AN AMBASSADOR IN BERLIN. AS A STALLING TACTIC, BELGIANS REPLIED THAT AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE BIHIN, CURRENTLY IN ATHENS, COULD NOT BE MOVED NOW DUE TO RECENT GREEK DEVELOPMENTS: HIS REMOVAL WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPLACEMENT, AND THE BELGIANS WOULD WISH NEITHER TO APPOINT A NEW AMBASSADOR AND THEREBY SIGNIFY APPROVAL OF CURRENT GREEK EVENTS NOR TO DELAY IN NAMING A REPLACEMENT FOR BIHIN AND THEREBY CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT BELGIUM WITHHOLDING RECOGNITION. A SECOND PLOY USED BY THE BELGIANS WAS TO CLAIM THAT AN ADDITIONAL PARCEL OF LAND WAS REQUIRED TO SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE IN BERLIN. FLORIN REJOINED THAT, ONCE A DATE FOR THE AMBASSADOR' S ARRIVAL WAS GIVEN, THE LAND TRANSACTION WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF. (REUSENS RECALLED TO EMBOFF THAT THE BELGIANS HAD PROMISED TO HOLD UP PLACING AN AMBASSADOR IN BERLIN UNTIL AN FRG REPRESENTATIVE HAD BEEN POSTED, BUT HE ADDED THAT THE PLEDGE WAS MADE AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HAVE ARRIVED BY EARLY SUMMER. WITH THE PROSPECT NOW THAT THIS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE FALL, REUSENS SAID THAT THE BELGIANS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURE THAT LONG. HE ADDED THAT VAN ELSLANDE OR DAVIGNON COULD NOT VISIT EAST GERMANY UNTIL A BELGIAN AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENT.)

5. REUSENS SAID THAT FLORIN AND HIS AIDES WERE AT FIRST VERY STIFF AND FORMAL, AND THAT DAVIGNON IN A TOAST HAD LIKENED THE BEGINNING OF THE VISIT TO VISITS FROM EASTERN EUROPEANS OF FIVE YEARS AGO. FLORIN REPLIED BY SAYING THAT HE LIKED TO SIT ACROSS THE TABLE FROM A MAN AND LOOK IN HIS EYES AND TAKE HIS MEASURE. TOWARDS THE END OF THE VISIT FLORIN SEEMED TO RELAX A BIT, BUT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE FACT THAT WHAT LITTLE
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SUBSTANCE WAS INVOLVED IN THE VISIT HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED. REUSENS COMMENTED THAT FLORIN IS BOTH AN UNBENDING COMMUNIST AND A STAUNCH GERMAN, A COMBINATION OF TRAITS THAT WORKS TO REDUCE FLEXIBILITY ON ISSUES. REUSENS ADDED THAT BELGIANS ASSUMED THAT FLORIN WILL SUCCEED WINZER AS FOREIGN MINISTER.
STRAUSZ- HUPE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE03286
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730619/aaaajatv.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BRUSSELS 3029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <13-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980206
Subject: EAST GERMAN VISIT TO BELGIUM, JUNE 6-10
TAGS: PFOR, BE, GE
To: ATHENS
BERLIN
BONN
EUR
NATO BRUSSELS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005